

territory, tensions between the two countries remained unresolved, and for good reason—the illegal seizure of these territories was in direct violation of no less than four United Nations Security Council Resolutions passed the year before (UNSCRs 822, 853, 874, and 884).

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States and Azerbaijan have maintained robust ties and a strong strategic partnership. Our Nation was one of the first countries to recognize Azerbaijani independence in the early 1990s, and since then, we have worked together with the Azerbaijani government to protect and promote European energy security, increase trade and investment, and combat terrorism and other transnational threats.

Azerbaijan has proven time and again to be steadfast partners, with her servicemen proudly serving shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. Forces in Kosovo and Iraq. Azerbaijan began its peacekeeping presence in Afghanistan in 2002 and was one of the last foreign countries to withdraw its troops. In support of the U.S. mission, Azerbaijan allowed about 40 percent of all cargo destined for NATO personnel in Afghanistan to pass through their country.

One year following the end of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, I extend my best wishes to the people of Azerbaijan following the fortification of their nation's territorial integrity, and urge both Armenia and Azerbaijan to sign a definitive and final peace agreement. Peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan will boost bilateral relations between the two countries and ensure increased regional cooperation.

HONORING DR. JAMES D. ECKERT

**HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 15, 2021*

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, Dr. James Eckert is one of many fellow Americans born stateside but whose path took him to Puerto Rico, where he raised his family and devoted himself to the development of education. His leadership in the military and educational fields touched many in our dear Island. Born on October 2, 1932, in New York City, New York, he attended the University of Southern California where he received his bachelor's degree. After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, receiving a Commission as a Marine Corps Officer in 1960. His recent passing is a deeply felt loss to his family but also to the many people in Puerto Rico that were touched by him.

During his military career, he served in the Republic of South Korea and South Vietnam. He also served at sea aboard the USS *Boxer*, a 27,100-ton *Essex*-class aircraft carrier that in the late 1950's was transferred to the Atlantic Fleet as an "interim amphibious assault ship" and mainly operated in the Caribbean area with the Tenth Provisional Marine Brigade on board. While the USS *Boxer* was in Puerto Rico, Marine Officer James Eckert met his future wife Mrs. Carmen "Tata" Eckert from the town of Fajardo. Their relationship blossomed and was blessed by the arrival of 3 children who grew to become professional in their own right; Attorney Heydsha Colon, Mr. James D. Eckert and Mr. Larry E. Eckert who enriched the family with a bouquet of 5 grandchildren.

After 25 years of service and with the rank of Major, James D. Eckert retired from the United States Marine Corps with the satisfaction of having served our nation with great honor. During his military career Major Eckert's valor and leadership was recognized by various decorations, medals, badges and commendations. Upon retirement Major Eckert established his family in Puerto Rico where he pursued and obtained Master and Doctoral Degrees in Education and worked in different leadership positions ranging from High School to University level.

The Marine Corps motto of "Semper Fidelis" or Always Faithful accompanied him through his life after retirement, where his sense of duty manifested in his voluntary service in various military and civic organizations. He served as President of the Puerto Rico chapters of the Military Order of the World Wars and the Reserve Officers Association and was an active member of the Marine Corps Association, the Navy League of the United States. Respected as a leader, family man, father, grandfather and restless advocate of Puerto Rico's veteran and military community, he always demonstrated his patriotism, bravery, and courage. Without a doubt Major James D. Eckert is an example and inspiration to follow by all.

HOMETOWN HERO—EDWARD REYES

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 15, 2021*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edward Reyes of Carrollton, TX who served in the U.S. Army and served as an infantryman in Vietnam.

Last weekend, I had the honor of awarding Edward the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation. We honor him for his courage and bravery when entering the Army in June 1969 and being honorably discharged in May 1971.

Since then, Edward has made a great impact on his community by serving as the President of Vietnam Veterans of America Dallas Chapter, working in law enforcement, serving on the Executive Board of Directors of the American Legion Post 453, and serving in various other organizations.

Edward has always put others first and continues to make a lasting impact on the lives around him. It is an honor to recognize the distinguished veterans of TX 24, like Edward, and to preserve their stories for future generations of Americans through the Congressional Veteran Commendation. I thank Edward for his service and the sacrifices he made to protect our great nation.

HONORING MICHAEL HULSIZER FOR HIS SERVICE TO KERN COUNTY AND THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 15, 2021*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Hulsizer, a constituent,

friend, educator, and dedicated public servant. Throughout his illustrious career, Michael has been a tireless advocate for students throughout Kern County and influential in shaping the policies that impact our children, teachers, and our families. After dedicating nearly 45 years of service to Kern County, Michael will be retiring from his position of Chief Deputy for Governmental Affairs for the Kern County Superintendent of Schools next month.

Michael began his career in education as a teacher at Desert High School, located in Eastern Kern County and part of the Muroc Joint Unified School District. While at Desert High, he served as teacher sponsor of the school's Mock Trial team, eventually helping to lead the 1982–83 team to win the California State Mock Trial Championship. His leadership at Desert High and passion for providing students with the best possible academic and extracurricular opportunities led him to the Kern County Superintendent of Schools' Curriculum and Accountability Division, as a History and Social Science Consultant, in 1985. In this role, Michael helped to implement the highly regarded "We The People: The Citizen and the Constitution" annual competition, during which teams of high school students throughout Kern County put their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution to the test, and developed the Kern County History Day program, which continues to be a highly popular event among Kern County students of all ages.

In the early 1990s, Michael played a leadership role, on behalf of the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, in the creation of the Kern County Network for Children, a collaborative network of community-based organizations and stakeholders that aims to support Kern County's most vulnerable students. Nearly 30 years later, the Kern County Network for Children continues to serve families and at-risk youth through its collaborative model and system of family resource centers, thanks largely to Michael's leadership. In 2005, Michael brought his passion for Kern County students and civics education to our nation's capital by participating in the third annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education, hosted by the joint leadership of the United States Congress.

During his tenure as Chief Deputy for Governmental Affairs for the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Michael had a hand in crafting education policy at the state and local levels and served as the primary liaison on federal education issues. He was particularly instrumental in the adoption and implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula in the State of California, and most recently helped to guide Kern County schools through the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring that they received the federal and state relief funds necessary to continue to educate students throughout Kern County.

I have had the privilege of working with Michael on issues facing students in our community since my time in the California State Assembly and have consistently sought out his opinion and guidance over the years. Michael is respected by elected officials, educators, and students alike for his deep knowledge of education policy, and has left an indelible impact in our schools, community, and the State of California. While he will no longer be with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, I have no doubt he will continue to champion causes important to him and our students. On